United Nations E/AC.51/1999/L.6/Add.11

Economic and Social Council

Distr.: Limited
29 June 1999

Original: English

Committee for Programme and Coordination
Thirty-ninth session
7 June–2 July 1999

Draft report

Addendum

Rapporteur: Mr. Juichi **Takahara** (Japan)

Proposed programme budget for the biennium 2000–2001 (item 4 (b))

Section 5. Peacekeeping operations and special missions

1. At its 29th meeting, on 23 June 1999, the Committee for Programme and Coordination considered section 5, Peacekeeping operations and special missions, of the proposed programme budget for the biennium 2000–2001.

2. The representative of the Under-Secretary-General for Peacekeeping Operations introduced the budget section and responded to queries raised during the Committee's consideration of the budget section.

Discussion

3. Support was given to the activities of the Department of Peacekeeping Operations. It was agreed that the peacekeeping activities were becoming more complex and were performing various functions. The view was expressed that the Department was carrying out its programme of work effectively and that peacekeeping missions constituted an important mechanism in the maintenance of peace and security. It was stressed, however, that prior to undertaking peacekeeping missions, every effort should be made to seek the early resolution of conflicts through pacific settlement of disputes by the parties concerned through negotiation, inquiry, mediation, conciliation, arbitration, judicial settlement, resort to regional agencies or arrangements, or other peaceful means in accordance with the Charter of the United Nations. While the need to strengthen regional arrangements was emphasized and cooperation with regional organizations was welcomed, it was pointed out that in undertaking those activities, the Department must strictly follow relevant regulations and

99-19233 (E) 300699

mandates. The view was expressed that a clear division of labour between different United Nations bodies should be taken into consideration in peacekeeping operations in order to avoid duplication and overlapping.

4. The presentation of the programme narrative was welcomed as it had been formulated with a view to meeting the mandates of Member States. It was noted that the activities contained therein were guided by the medium-term plan for the period 1998–2001. It was pointed out, however, that the terminology used could be better formulated and better harmonized with the text of the medium-term plan. Satisfaction was expressed with the implementation of General Assembly resolution 51/243 of 15 September 1997 regarding the phasing out of gratis personnel. The view was also expressed that following the phasing out of gratis personnel, the military expertise of the Department should be ensured in the consolidation of the Office of the Military and Civilian Police.

5. Support was given to the restructuring of the Department and the distribution of functions therein in order to respond more effectively to its mandates. Importance was attached to the activities of the Lessons Learned Unit, the Mine Action Service and training. The mergers of the Lessons Learned Unit with the Policy Planning Unit and of the Mine Action Service with the Field Administration and Logistics Division were noted.

6. The view was expressed that activities related to the liquidation of assets, the processing of claims for contingent-owned equipment, the development of safety aspects of mine clearance, as well as other safety standards, should be implemented at the earliest possible date. The need for coordination with other organizations and institutions in the development of security and safety standards and guidelines was stressed.

6 (*bis*) The need to improve contacts with Member States as well as with the media in this area was emphasized.

7. The view was expressed that the Department should continue to assess its work programme and refine those elements which were not effective and/or were not functional, as requested in the Regulations and Rules Governing Programme Planning, the Programme Aspects of the Budget, the Monitoring of Implementation and the Methods of Evaluation.

8. It was pointed out that the description of outputs under subprogramme 2.3 was too detailed, and difficulties arose in reviewing the activities enumerated under the subprogramme. The view was expressed that in the future the listing of outputs should be consolidated.

9. It was noted that while certain activities under the programme were of a permanent nature, those activities continued to be funded on a temporary basis from resources under the support account for peacekeeping operations.

10. Satisfaction was expressed regarding the inclusion of expected accomplishments and the progress achieved so far. The view was also expressed that they were still far too broad and not specific enough. In the context of future programme budget proposals, therefore, the formulation of expected accomplishments should be further refined with a view to facilitating their measurement at the end of the biennium. The view was also expressed that, in some instances, the formulation of expected accomplishments was not feasible for some peacekeeping activities.

11. Support was also given to the two peacekeeping missions funded from the regular budget, the United Nations Truce Supervision Organization and the United Nations Military Observer Group in India and Pakistan.

Conclusions and recommendations

12. The Committee recommended that the General Assembly approve the programme narrative of section 5, Peacekeeping operations, subject to the following modifications:

(a) In the last sentence of paragraph 5.5, the words "other missions" should be replaced with "good offices, preventive diplomacy, peacemaking and humanitarian missions";

(b) In the beginning of paragraph 5.6, the following text should be inserted:

"Every effort will be made to seek the early resolution of conflicts through pacific settlement of disputes by the parties concerned through negotiation, inquiry, mediation, conciliation, arbitration, judicial settlement, resort to regional agencies or arrangements, or other peaceful means in accordance with the Charter. However, peacekeeping will be one of the key instruments available to the United Nations to resolve conflicts and to maintain international peace and security."